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imagery analysis report

Ground Support Equipment for Soviet Silo-Launched ABMs (S)

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GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR SOVIET SILO-LAUNCHED ABMs (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. This report describes the ground support equipment (GSE) for the GALOSH and silo-launched antiballistic missile (ABM) systems under development at the Sary-Shagan Missile Test Center USSR. The GALOSH system utilizes a canister transporter similar to the SS-16/-20 transporter-erector-launcher (TEL) and the same silo loader used for the SS-18 ICBM and launch control capsules. The high-acceleration ABM system uses a canister transporter and silo loader unique to that system. All four types of GSE have been observed together in the receiving yard of the Operations Support Base (Figure 1), and the vehicles have been seen at their respective system-associated launch complexes at Sary-Shagan.

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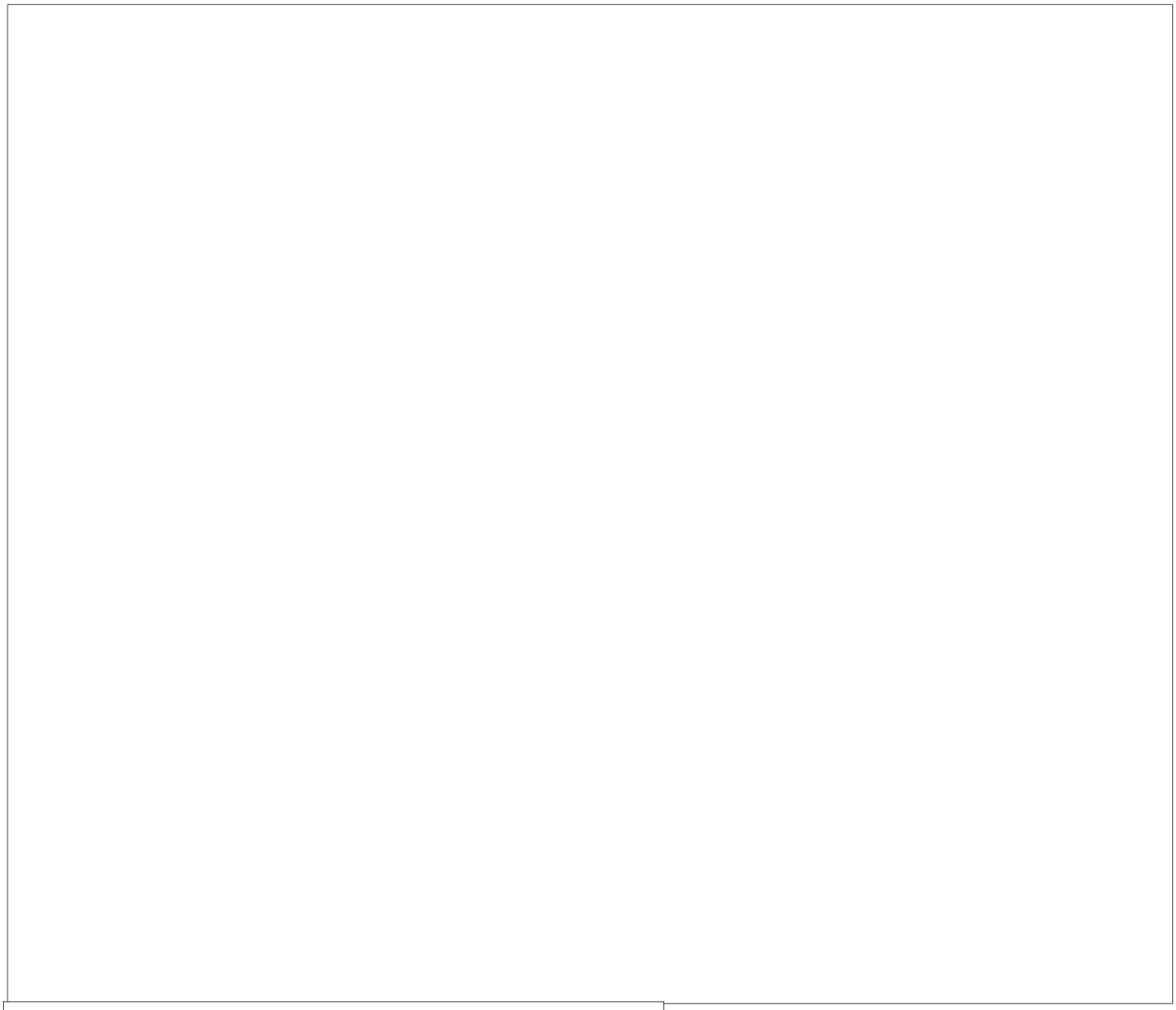

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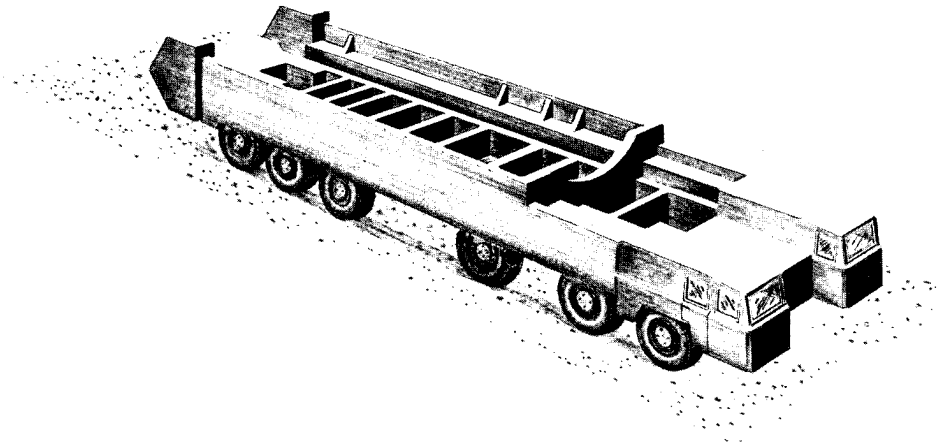
DESCRIPTION

GALOSH Transporter and Silo Loader

2. (S/WN) The GALOSH transporter (Figure 2) is a six-axle, MAZ-type vehicle used to transport the missile in its canister from the Operations Support Base to Launch Complex B, where the missile is test fired. This vehicle, similar to the SS-16/-20 TEL, is [redacted] 25X1



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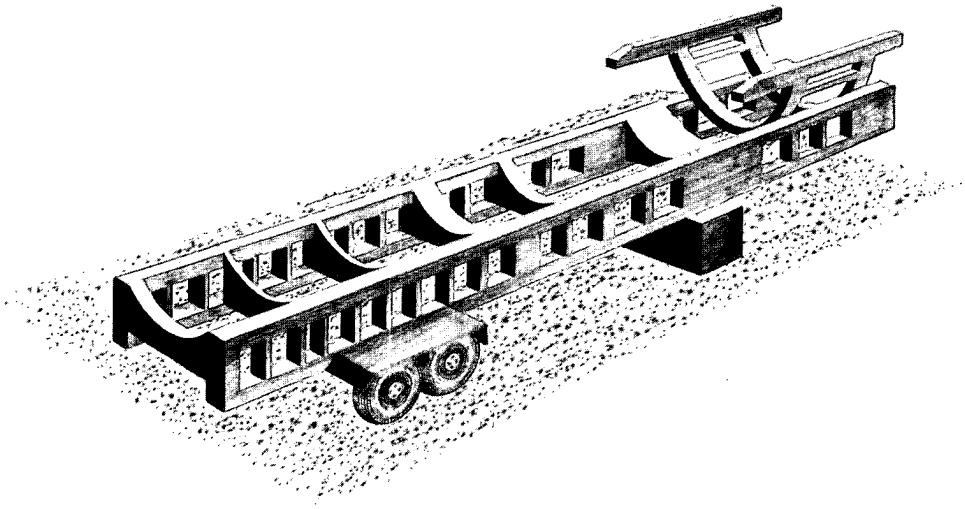
3. (S/WN) The GALOSH silo loader (Figure 3) is the same vehicle used to load SS-18 ICBM missile canisters and launch control capsules into their silos. It is [redacted] without the prime mover, 26 meters long overall with the prime mover, and [redacted] wide. 25X1 25X1

4. (S/WN) Both the silo loader and canister transporter were observed during a silo loading exercise at Sary-Shagan Launch Complex B in November 1978. They were positioned in tandem on the silo apron with the silo loader backed up to launch silo C4. The transfer of the GALOSH missile canister from transporter to silo loader is accomplished by a roll transfer method. Following the transfer, the missile canister is erected by the loader and lowered into the silo. The vehicles return to the silo to remove the canister after the missile has been launched.



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Transporter and Silo Loader

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5. The transporter (Figure 4) is a four-axle, MAZ-type vehicle used to transport the missile in its canister from the Operations Support Base to Launch Complex F, where the is test fired. The transporter has a cradle extending approximately beyond the rear of the vehicle. The basic transporter, without the cradle extension, is The overall length, including the cradle extension, is

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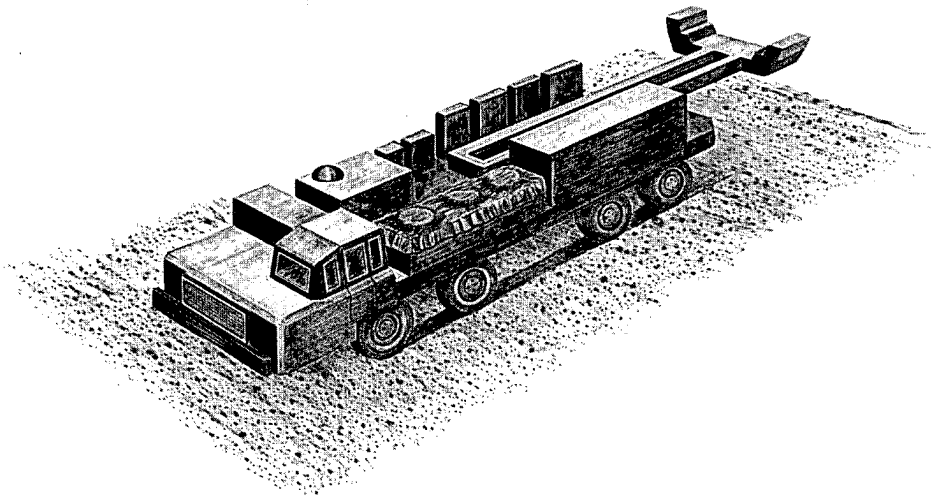

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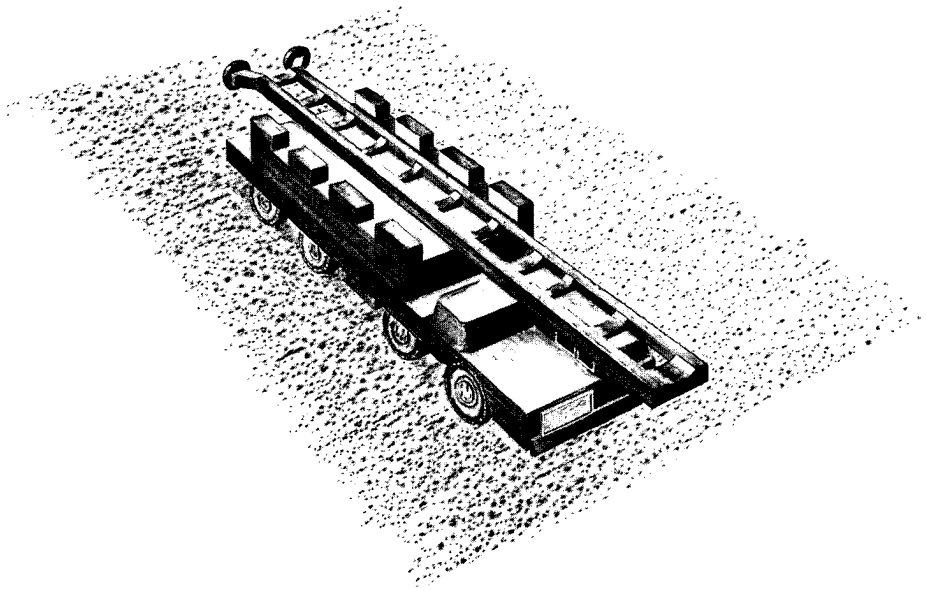
6. [redacted] The [redacted] silo loader (Figure 5) is a probable four-axle, MAZ-type vehicle specifically designed to load the [redacted] missile canister into its silo. The vehicle is [redacted] approximately [redacted] The vehicle has a [redacted] long, ladder-like structure which supports the missile canister. This ladder-like structure extends over both ends of the vehicle. It is [redacted] meters wide except at its base, which flares to a width of [redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1



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7. [redacted] The [redacted] silo loader and transporter were observed at Launch Complex F on [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] They were also seen during a simulated training exercise in early August 1981. The 25X1
transfer of the [redacted] canister from transporter to loader is accomplished with the vehicles 25X1
aligned in tandem on a prepared hardstand near the silo apron. This alignment suggests that a roll
transfer method, similar to the one used for the GALOSH transfer, is used for the [redacted] 25X1
However, a truck-mounted crane was also present during the transfer, suggesting that some crane assistance is involved. Following the transfer, the silo loader is driven onto the silo apron and backed up to the silo. The canister is then erected and lowered into the silo.

8. (S/WN) The type of GSE that arrives at each of the five complexes in the Moscow area where ABM silos are under construction should be a reliable indicator of the system to be deployed there.

REFERENCES

DOCUMENT

1. DEFSMAC. INMI EVENT 15136/[redacted] P-052031Z, *Data Summary for* [redacted] *Launched on* [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Feb 82 (TOP SECRET[redacted] 25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] 25X1
Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted] 25X1

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